



## Office on Mental Health

Core Service Agency of Harford County, Inc.

### Board of Directors Meeting

November 9, 2023

### Minutes

#### **Board Members Present**

Christina Alton, Heather Connellee, Kevin Bianca, Marcy Austin, Shawn Martin, Jennifer Redding, Jacob Bennett, Lynn Winkler, Latoya White, Alexis Coleman

#### **Board Members Absent/Excused**

Naomi Fabricant, Amy Snyder

#### **Staff**

Jessica Kraus, Jamie Miller, Leah Keenan

#### **I. Call to Order/Introductions**

Meeting was called to order by Board President Christina Alton @ 4:32 PM. Jess introduced and welcomed the two new Board members, Latoya White and Alexis Coleman. The board members took turns introducing themselves to the new members.

#### **II. Review/Acceptance of September 21, 2023 Board Minutes**

Board Members reviewed the September 21, 2023 minutes. Lynn made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Heather seconded the motion, and Board members approved the minutes. The vote was all in favor of accepting the minutes as written.

#### **III. President's Report**

Christina started off the meeting on a positive note by sharing a quote from Aesop, "No act of kindness, however small, is wasted." She reminded members that small gestures such as writing uplifting positive messages, donating to those in need, surprising a friend or co-worker with a cup of coffee or volunteering to help never goes unwasted. The intent of this was to motivate members to embrace kindness to help bring positivity to their everyday routines.

#### **IV. Deputy Director Report**

Jamie presented an update on the Trauma, Addiction, Mental Health, and Recovery (TAMAR) Program. The 1<sup>st</sup> session was completed with inmates, and the second session is scheduled to start late November/early December. All Harford County Public schools now have fully executed contracts with school based mental health programs. Our office is monitoring the new Voluntary Placement Agreement (VPA) bill and how it will affect local jurisdictions. This bill allows the Behavioral Health Administration to oversee funding for education for youth attending Residential Treatment Centers in an effort to divert involvement with Department of Social Services. At this time there has been no funding attached to the bill and implementation is still pending. On October 9<sup>th</sup>, our new Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) supervisor and Community SSI/SSDI, Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR) Specialist started. Both are finishing up their mandated trainings and are doing very well. Currently, 29 out of

the 39 PSH participants obtained housing. We are still actively hiring a Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Coordinator. We are waiting for funding to come through for two new suicide prevention initiatives. One is for the Ed Lally Foundation to provide suicide prevention training to Harford County Public School students and the other is a safe storage initiative for firearms.

## V. **Executive Director Report**

### **Board Vacancy**

Jess announced Jeff's renewal application was denied because he moved out of the county. We will need to fill his role with a county resident who can practice Law in Maryland.

### **Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD)**

Jess gave an overview of the LEAD program and announced the OMH/CSA was awarded the funding to provide services in Harford County. The OMH/CSA is finalizing contracts with the Bel Air Police Department to fund a law enforcement liaison. The OMH/CSA is also finalizing contracts with Klein Family Harford Crisis Center (KFHCC) to hire 2 case managers to work with individuals in the community and support staff positions in the urgent care center for individuals requiring more intensive services. The OMH/CSA will receive indirect funds in order to support the oversight of this program.

### **Maryland Consortium on Coordinated Community Supports HUB Request for Proposal (RFP)**

Jamie gave an overview of the Maryland Consortium on Coordinated Community Supports SPOKES and HUB models for the new members. The OMH/CSA submitted an application to become the HUB to manage the SPOKES in Harford County. There were 15 SPOKE applications sent in for Harford County. The consortium will be awarding funding to 10 HUB applicants as part of the initial pilot program. Awards are expected to be made in January/February 2024.

### **Mobile Crisis Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)**

The Maryland Department of Health's Behavioral Health Administration (MDH-BHA), released a NOFO on October 25, 2023 for the expansion and startup of Mobile Crisis Teams (MCT) and Behavioral Health Crisis Stabilization Centers (BHCS) for State Fiscal Year 2024. OMH/CSA participated in the pre-bid conference held on November 6<sup>th</sup>. The OMH/CSA submitted a proposal for funds to assist our mobile crisis team with obtaining accreditation and support with becoming Medicaid reimbursed for services in order to comply with new mobile crisis regulations. If awarded, funding for this project will be provided January 1, 2024-June 30, 2024.

### **FY 2025 Funding Letter**

The OMH/CSA received notification that State general funds will receive a 4% COLA increase for FY 25. The OMH/CSA has the authority to disperse the increase among their sub-vendors. The OMH/CSA will take into consideration last year's spending and

performance of programs when making determinations for funding allocations for FY 25 sub-vendors.

**FY 2025 Annual Report & Budget Submission**

The FY 2025 Annual Report and Financial Plan submissions are due on or before January 5, 2024. However, there has been a request submitted to push these timelines back. Jess will send an email out to set up and convene the budget review committee for the financial plan.

**VI. Finance Report**

**FY 2024 YTD Budget Update**

Leah disseminated the FY 2024 budget year-to-date (YTD) expenditures and reviewed projections to Board members. Leah highlighted some staffing changes. Stacy Seymore, Director with Maryland Employment Network, has resigned from her full-time position and is going to stay on part-time to assist with the transition. There were no questions from Board members on the line items presented.

**VII. Upcoming Events & Announcements**

Mental Health and Addictions Advisory Council- November 28<sup>th</sup>  
Annual Local Health Improvement Coalition (LHIC)- December 5<sup>th</sup>

**VIII. Adjournment**

The Board of Directors closed the meeting at approximately 5:04PM. The next Board Meeting is scheduled for January 18, 2024 @ 4:30PM and will be held in person.